

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____



To evaluate access to services and treatment for substance use disorders and to telehealth services and remote patient monitoring for pediatric populations under Medicaid.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. STABENOW) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To evaluate access to services and treatment for substance use disorders and to telehealth services and remote patient monitoring for pediatric populations under Medicaid.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Telehealth for Chil-
5 dren’s Access to Services and Treatment Act” or the
6 “TeleCAST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**—The term
4 “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-
5 eral of the United States.

6 (2) **SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER.**—The
7 term “school-based health center” has the meaning
8 given that term in section 2110(c)(9) of the Social
9 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(9)).

10 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

12 (4) **TELEHEALTH SERVICES.**—The term “tele-
13 health services” includes remote patient monitoring
14 and other key modalities such as live video or syn-
15 chronous telehealth, store-and-forward or asyn-
16 chronous telehealth, mobile health, telephonic con-
17 sultation, and electronic consult including provider-
18 to-provider e-consults.

19 (5) **UNDERSERVED AREA.**—The term “under-
20 served area” means a health professional shortage
21 area (as defined in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Pub-
22 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)(A)))
23 and a medically underserved area (according to a
24 designation under section 330(b)(3)(A) of the Public
25 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)(3)(A))).

1 **SEC. 3. GAO EVALUATION OF CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO**
2 **SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE**
3 **USE DISORDERS UNDER MEDICAID.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall evaluate
5 children's access to services and treatment for substance
6 use disorders under Medicaid. The evaluation shall include
7 an analysis of State options for improving children's ac-
8 cess to such services and treatment and for improving out-
9 comes, including by increasing the number of Medicaid
10 providers who offer services or treatment for substance
11 use disorders in a school-based health center using tele-
12 health services, particularly in rural and underserved
13 areas. The evaluation shall include an analysis of Medicaid
14 provider reimbursement rates for services and treatment
15 for substance use disorders.

16 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
17 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
18 submit to Congress a report containing the results of the
19 evaluation conducted under subsection (a), together with
20 recommendations for such legislation and administrative
21 action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON REDUCING BARRIERS TO USING TELE-**
2 **HEALTH SERVICES AND REMOTE PATIENT**
3 **MONITORING FOR PEDIATRIC POPULATIONS**
4 **UNDER MEDICAID.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
7 through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare &
8 Medicaid Services, shall issue a report to the Committee
9 on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy
10 and Commerce of the House of Representative identifying
11 best practices and potential solutions for reducing barriers
12 to using telehealth services to furnish services and treat-
13 ment for substance use disorders among pediatric popu-
14 lations under Medicaid. The report shall include—

15 (1) analyses of the best practices, barriers, and
16 potential solutions for using telehealth services to di-
17 agnose and provide services and treatment for chil-
18 dren with substance use disorders, including opioid
19 use disorder; and

20 (2) identification and analysis of the dif-
21 ferences, if any, in furnishing services and treatment
22 for children with substance use disorders using tele-
23 health services and using services delivered in per-
24 son, such as, and to the extent feasible, with respect
25 to—

26 (A) utilization rates;

- 1 (B) costs;
- 2 (C) avoidable inpatient admissions and re-
- 3 admissions;
- 4 (D) quality of care; and
- 5 (E) patient, family, and provider satisfac-
- 6 tion.

7 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the
8 report required under subsection (a) on a public Internet
9 website of the Department of Health and Human Services.